



While incorporating a hidden fence into your landscaping and your lives can be pretty simple, Martha Gerlicher, local owner and operator of DogWatch Hidden Fence Systems, recommends the following when evaluating options:

1 Understand the technology. Most systems work by transmitting a coded radio signal through a boundary wire installed around your yard at ground level or just below. This harmless signal is picked up by a receiver collar worn by your dog. Depending on the size of the property and the needs of your dog, signal range may vary from the boundary wire. When your dog gets close to the boundary wire, an audible warning reminds the dog not to cross. If the warning is ignored – rare after training – the collar emits a mild stimulation to deter it from breaking through the barrier.

2 Look for systems that work with an FM signal rather than an AM signal. Each FM signal is unique, says Gerlicher. DogWatch's patented SAFELINK Digital FM transmitter and receiver are individually programmed with a unique pattern that is exclusive to your dog. As a result, your dog won't be confused by competing signals from other things operating on the AM band, such as garage door openers, microwaves and radios.

3 Consider how adaptable the system is to your space, and make sure the system you're considering has ranges that can be adjusted to suit your dog and yard. Smaller yards need shorter ranges; larger yards can have multiple warning zones.

4 Does the system come with training? If so, how flexible is that training? It's also important to research how many levels of correction are available in the system. You want flexibility to start with the lowest possible correction level, and progress to higher levels as needed.

5 Does the dealer have a good reputation for training and service? Ask for

references and decide if this is the right person for your family and your pet. Make sure you're confident the dealer will respond immediately if you have a system failure.

6 Pay attention to the details. Does the system have a good warranty? Will the company replace broken parts with new parts in a timely way? Make sure you check out what kinds of batteries are

used with the system. "Some systems burn through batteries fairly quickly," explains Gerlicher. ♦♦



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